

Press Release

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Corps to conduct test releases at Dover

HUNTINGTON, WV... The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, will make test releases from Dover Dam Thursday, March 20, 2003. These tests will allow the Corps to assess significant downstream impacts when maximum water releases within the current guidelines are made.

Evaluating the effect of the test releases will help determine whether adjustments should be made to the current water control plan. The Army Corps of Engineers, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and various state agencies jointly developed this operating plan.

In a partnering meeting with the MWCD, the Corps recommended and the MWCD agreed to adjustments in current Corps discharge levels to allow maximum downstream controlled releases in accordance with the water control plan for the Muskingum flood control projects. Over the years, minor modifications in the operations of these projects have resulted in slightly reduced discharges from the dams. These modifications may have degraded the Corps' ability to release water during severe floods.

Increased releases could result in water on or through encroachments, water in and around trailers, water in or around dwelling additions, and water in downstream fields. Therefore, the Corps and representatives of local agencies will monitor downstream conditions to ensure that unnecessary damages do not occur. Once testing is complete, water control plans

will be adjusted to reflect highest possible release rates without serious damage to downstream areas.

The Muskingum lakes were developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the MWCD during the 1930's to reduce flooding throughout the Muskingum River Basin. Since that time, the Muskingum projects have prevented over \$2.2 billion in flood damages.

Future tests will be conducted at Mohawk, Charles Mill, and Wills Creek as lake elevations and weather conditions permit. Additional information will be provided when further testing is conducted.